

Buzzards Roost Trail and Trail Maintenance Project

PALS 58344, 06/19/2020

Buzzards Roost Trail was a Forest System trail with a designation (10E10) and was depicted on Forest Service topographic maps by name and number as recently as 23 years ago (Blue Nose Mountain, California USDA Forest Service 1997). It is not known why this ridgeline (4,600 feet to 7,205 feet) hiking trail was removed from the system.

The Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Region is funding an agreement with Sierra Buttes Trail Stewardship to supplement an existing National Forest Foundation grant to restore, realign, and maintain trails on the Plumas National Forest. The Feather River Ranger District (FRRD) is proposing trail work on the following six trails.

Sections of older existing trails are not constructed to Forest Service standards and can create impacts to soil and water quality, and are not sustainable as built. Minor reconstruction and sometimes more extensive realignments are needed to meet objectives. Desired conditions for non-motorized trails include design and maintenance standards identified in Forest Service Handbook 2309.18 Section 23.12. Trail tread should exhibit proper width, drainage, stabilization, and slope. Unsuitable sections of trail would be obliterated. Equipment includes mini-excavator, various hand tools, and chainsaws.

Buzzards Roost Trail (10E10) is a 5.3 mile trail. Beginning off Quincy-LaPorte Highway at Nelson Creek the trail climbs to the Buzzards Roost Ridge and follows the ridgeline generally north northeast to south southwest terminating at the Forest Service 22N43Y Road. The trail needs to be restored, realigned, and redesignated as a system trail.

Minerva Bar Trail (9E08) 3.2 miles from the south down into Middle Fork of the Feather River. Restore, realign, and maintain.

Butte Bar Trail (8E14) 0.7 miles from Pacific Crest Trail into Middle Fork of the Feather River to Butte Bar. Restore, realign, and maintain.

Hartman Bar Trail has two entry points on either side of the Middle Fork of the Feather River; Hartman Bar Trail North (7E13A) and Hartman Bar Trail South (7E13B), 3.7 and 3.6 miles consecutively. The trail descends down to a suspension bridge that crosses the river. A horse corral is located at each trailhead. This trail is not recommended for novice horse riders. Restore, realign, and maintain.

Table Rock Trail (10E05) 1.1 mile climb to top of Table Rock at 6,908 feet. Nearby Howland Flat. Restore, realign, and maintain.

On June 22, 2020, presented the project to Butte County Forest Advisory Committee at their monthly meeting.

The project was entered into PALS and appeared on the Schedule Of Proposed Actions (SOPA) on June 19, 2020. On June 19, we sent a project description and invitation for scoping to 132 collaborators representing Federal, Tribal, State, and local governments, non-government organizations, industry, education, utilities, and members of the public. The project is anticipated to have a decision in July, 2020. Please provide any comments to Maria Cisneros, maria.cisneros@usda.gov or Clay R. Davis, clay.davis@usda.gov